

4-15-99

FDA Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, rm 14-71
Rockville, Md. 20857

1456 '99 JUN -9 AIO:20

Subj: Docket No. 99P-0033/CP 1
Dead animals in feed

I support the petition of the Humane Farming Association that dead animal products be prohibited for use in animal feed and pet foods. Scientists and public officials have consistently underestimated the risks from transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). There is absolutely no reason to believe that feeding pigs back to pigs, for example, will have less risk of transmission than feeding cows back to cows or cows and sheep to mink, etc.

TSE has been positively identified as present in the United States, particularly in deer and elk. Ranchers in Western Kansas talk about the proliferation of very well feed deer. The reason, they state, is that the deer get into cattle feed left in untended pastures. That could explain the appearance of the disease in those animals in Colorado and Wyoming. I expect the FDA to take precautions to prevent the proliferation of TSE through practices that caused enormous problems in Europe.

In addition you should note that many rendered animals died of diseases made rampant by the crowding of animals on large factory farms. Death rates up to 30% have been documented in pig factories in Oklahoma. Antibiotic resistant bacteria were recently discovered in chicken feed. One can easily guess the source... rendered chickens that had been fed subtherapeutic doses of antibiotics. *It is not incumbent upon the FDA to protect the meat industry from their bizarre industrial practices.*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

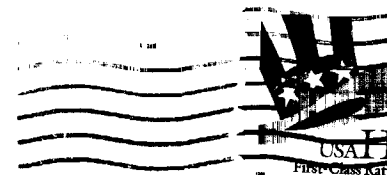


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